



# Florida House of Representatives

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## HOUSE TAKES PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ENERGY EXPLORATION

*~ Hearings start of lengthy and thorough fact-finding process ~*

**Tallahassee, FL** – Members of the House Select Policy Council on Strategic & Economic Planning heard testimony this afternoon from the public regarding policy options for Florida's energy future. The public was encouraged to attend and offer information to members of the Council to begin what will be a lengthy and thorough fact-finding process on the possibility of energy exploration in Florida's state waters.

"Today's hearing is part of an open and thoughtful dialogue about policy options for Florida's energy future," stated Representative Dean Cannon (R-Orlando), Chairman of the Select Council. "As the House begins the lengthy review of this issue, we will listen to experts and citizens from all sides of the issue and remain focused on helping restart Florida's economy while protecting our state's environmental treasures and our important tourism economy."

"It is important that state leaders, from time to time, review certain policies to determine whether they still best serve the interests of Florida's citizens. It's not only appropriate, but wise, to revisit the decisions made by the Legislature nearly twenty years ago to ban all energy exploration in Florida's territorial waters and see if it is still the best choice for Florida's future," remarked Representative Steve Precourt (R-Orlando), Chairman of the House Energy & Utilities Policy Committee.

"It is no secret that, just like Florida's families and businesses, our state government is facing difficult budgetary challenges," said Representative Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland). "As we look to meet these challenges, Floridians expect us to review all our options. That includes the possibility of responsible and safe energy exploration which could help our economic recovery by creating jobs, as well as generating new revenues for important services such as education funding, health care and next generation renewable energy technologies. It's an option that deserves thoughtful consideration."

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